

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-14 (cancelled)

15. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
  - (i) a TACI protein, wherein said TACI protein comprises comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
    - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
    - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; or
    - (c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 9075% identical to SEQ ID NO:1;wherein said polypeptides and fragments of (i) (a), (b) and (c) bind TACI-L SEQ ID NO:4;
  - (ii) a TACI-L protein, wherein said TACI-L protein comprises comprising a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
    - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;
    - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; or
    - (c) a polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that is at least 9075% identical to SEQ ID NO:3;wherein said polypeptides and fragments of (ii) (a), (b) and (c) bind TACI SEQ ID NO:2; and
  - (iii) a the test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the TACI protein of (i) and the TACI-L protein of (ii);

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the TACI protein of (i) and the TACI-L protein of (ii) is identified.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein at least one of the TACI proteins of (i) and the TACI-L proteins of (ii) is labeled with a detectable moiety.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein both the ~~TACI~~ proteins of (i) and (ii) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein are soluble.
18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein both the soluble ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) and the soluble ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii) are labeled with a detectable moiety.
19. (Previously added) The method of claim 15 wherein the test compound is an antibody.
20. (Previously added) The method of claim 19 wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody.
21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the composition is formed by adding the test compound to ~~a composition comprising the TACI~~ the protein of (i) and the ~~TACI-L~~ protein of (ii).
22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein step (b) comprises determining a dissociation constant of the interaction of the protein of (i) TACI with the protein of (ii) TACI-L.
23. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein step (b) comprises assessing activation of the protein of (i) TACI in a cell.
24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23 wherein assessing activation of the protein of (i) TACI in a cell is measured by calcium influx.
25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the protein of (ii) TACI-L is an soluble extracellular domain. TACI-L.
26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 25 wherein the soluble extracellular domain TACI-L further comprises a leucine zipper domain.
27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the ~~TACI~~ protein of (i) is soluble an extracellular domain. TACI.
28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the soluble extracellular domain further comprises a Fc domain. ~~TACI is TACI-Fc.~~

29. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
  - (i) a TACI protein, wherein said TACI protein comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
    - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and
    - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; wherein said fragments binds SEQ ID NO:4TACI-L;
  - (ii) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
  - (iii) a the test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the TACI protein polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4the TACI-L protein;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 TACI protein and the TACI-L protein is identified.

30. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
  - (i) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (ii) ~~TACI-L~~ a protein, wherein said ~~TACI-L~~ protein comprises a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:
    - (a) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
    - (b) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; wherein said fragments binds TACI-L SEQ ID NO:2; and
  - (iii) the a test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2TACI protein and the TACI-L protein polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 TACI protein and the TACI-L protein polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 or a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 is identified.

31. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L~~, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
  - (i) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein said fragments binds ~~TACI-L~~ SEQ ID NO:4;
  - (ii) a fragments of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4, wherein said fragments binds ~~TACI~~ the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2; and
  - (iii) ~~the~~ a test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of ~~the TACI protein~~ a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and ~~the TACI-L protein~~ a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2, ~~the TACI protein~~ and a fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~the TACI-L protein~~ is identified.

32. (Currently amended) A method of screening a test compound ~~to identify its ability to affect the interaction of TACI with TACI-L~~, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. forming a composition comprising
  - (i) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2;
  - (ii) the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4; and
  - (iii) a ~~the~~ test compound; and
- b. assaying for the level of interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~TACI protein~~ and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~TACI-L protein~~;

such that if the level obtained in step (b) differs from that obtained in the absence of the test compound, a test compound that affects the interaction of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 ~~TACI protein~~ and the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 ~~TACI-L protein~~ is identified.

33. (Previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein the fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 is amino acids 1-166 of SEQ ID NO:2.

34. (Previously added) The method of claim 31, wherein the fragment of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:4 is amino acids 73-285 of SEQ ID NO:4.